

The Applicants respectfully requests consideration of the amendments by the Examiner although submitted after Final Rejection. The amendments submitted herewith focus the subject matter of the claims, will simplify examination, and better place the claims in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows.

1. **(currently amended):** A process in which material comprising an aqueous liquid with dispersed particulate solids is pumped as a fluid then allowed to stand and rigidify and the rigidification is improved whilst retaining the pumpability of the material by combining polymeric particles with the material during or prior to pumping the material,
wherein the polymeric particles are added as solid grade polymer particles and comprise water soluble polymer which has an intrinsic viscosity of at least 3 dl/g.

2. **(previously presented):** A process according to claim 1 in which the water soluble polymer is anionic and is ~~preferably~~ formed from ethylenically unsaturated water-soluble monomer or blend of monomers comprising ,

(a) anionic monomers selected from ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and/or sulphonic acid monomers,

and optionally (b) nonionic comonomers.

3. **(previously presented):** A process according to claim 1 in which the polymeric particles have an average particles size of less than 10 microns.

4. **(cancelled).**

5. **(currently amended):** A process according to claims 1 in which the solid polymeric ~~particles~~agglomerates or aggregates are added to the material as substantially individual particles of particle size greater than 20 microns.

6. **(previously presented):** A process according to claim 1 in which the dispersed particulate solids of the material are mineral.

7. **(previously presented):** A process according to claim 1 in which the dispersed particulate solids of the material have particle sizes less than 100 microns.

8-9 **(cancelled).**

10. **(previously presented):** A process according to claim 1 in which the material has a solids content in the range 15% to 80% by weight

11. **(previously presnted)**: A process according to claim 1 in which the material comprised red mud from the Bayer alumina process.

12. **(previously amended)** A process according to claim 1 in which the material is pumped to an outlet, where it is allowed to flow over the surface of previously rigidified material, wherein the material is allowed to stand and rigidify to form a stack.

13-15. **(cancelled)**.

16. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 1 in which a suspension is treated by mixing with a particulate treatment chemical, comprising,
flowing the suspension along a flow line
taking a portion of the suspension and flowing it into a mixing chamber, where it is combined with the particulate treatment chemical and then returned to the flow line,
characterised in that the suspension enters the mixing chamber and forms a vortex into which the particulate treatment chemical is fed.

17. **(original)**: A process according to claim 16 in which the particulate treatment chemical comprises water soluble polymer.

18. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 16 in which the particulate treatment chemical has a particle size of at least 20 microns.